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mission-related duties. The doubling of duties during the loss of 4 percent of their law enforcement personnel has watered down the Patrol's work capacity, which affects virtually all criminal justice agencies. Today, the simple truth is the Nebraska State Patrol is not in a position to adequately discharge their mission and, as a result, the law enforcement officers across the state are negatively impacted. When I was first elected, or appointed, excuse me, to the Legislature, members of the Patrol in my district held a meeting, that some other senators also came to, to have information on what their duties were and what their ability to perform the duties. It was an informational session, and I came away from that meeting with a lot of questions; questions about what we, as a Legislature, had done to increase this number of mission-related duties without giving the Patrol a capacity to adequately execute all those duties. I later met with law enforcement officials in my district, which I do on a regular basis, and the issue came up there. It also came up in a nonrelated meeting in the Omaha area, there are a lot of opinions out there on this, a lot of concern, a lot of ideas. This is not meant in any way to take a shot at any particular aspect of law enforcement in the state. Rather, it is my attempt in working with these organizations to say, what can we do to improve the effectiveness of the Patrol, what can we do collaboratively with local law enforcement agencies, and how can we solve this problem? As a result, I put together a laundry list of issues, circulated that to the Patrol, the Sheriffs' Association, police in the state, got their feedback. I also talked to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, which in the university system houses both the criminal justice experts as well as the public administration experts, and as a neutral party, they were willing to staff this probably at a little less than they would have liked to have, but that's what the A bill is, to use their experts within both departments to look at the structure, the mission, the ability to address personnel issues, the list of things that are being currently required of the Patrol, and to facilitate a discussion with sheriffs and police officers from around the state on these very, very important issues. One of the things that I heard from all the law enforcement agencies, no matter what frustration they might have been having because of the Patrol being stretched so thin, was that the State Patrol in Nebraska is the lead law enforcement agency. It has to take a leadership role. It has critical